

REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of the present application based on the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, line 1, please insert the following new paragraph

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application No. 09/501,320, filed February 10, 2000, the specification and drawings of which are incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-5 and 13 have been cancelled herein, claims 6-10 and 14-24 have been amended and new claim 25 has been added.

6. An image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, wherein both said first reflecting surface and said second reflecting surface have a curved surface configuration that gives a power to a light beam, said curved surface configuration being a rotationally asymmetric surface configuration that corrects aberrations due to decentration.

7. An image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, wherein both said third reflecting surface and said fourth reflecting surface have a curved surface configuration that gives a power to a light beam, said curved surface configuration being a rotationally asymmetric surface configuration that corrects aberrations due to decentration.

8. An image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, wherein said first entrance surface has a curved surface configuration that gives a power to a light beam, said curved surface configuration being a rotationally asymmetric surface configuration that corrects aberrations due to decentration.

9. An image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, wherein said first exit surface has a curved surface configuration that gives a power to a light beam, said curved surface configuration being a rotationally asymmetric surface configuration that corrects aberrations due to decentration.

10. An image-forming optical system according to any one of claims [1 to 5] 6 to 9, wherein the rotationally asymmetric surface configuration of said prism member is a plane-symmetry free-form surface having only one plane of symmetry.

14. An image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, wherein optical surfaces of said prism member that are closer to an object side than said intermediate image plane are arranged to correct decentration aberrations as a whole and optical surfaces of said prism member that are closer to an image-formation plane side than said intermediate image plane are arranged to correct decentration aberrations as a whole so that said intermediate image plane is formed in an approximately planar shape.

15. An image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, wherein, when powers in X- and Y-directions of an entire optical system are denoted by P_x and P_y , respectively, and powers in the X-direction of the first reflecting surface, the second reflecting surface, the third reflecting surface and the fourth reflecting surface are denoted by

Px1-1, Px1-2, Px2-1 and Px2-2, respectively, and further powers in the Y-direction of the first reflecting surface, the second reflecting surface, the third reflecting surface and the fourth reflecting surface are denoted by Py1-1, Py1-2, Py2-1 and Py2-2, respectively, the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.4 < Px1-1/Px < 1.1 \quad \dots(1).$$

16. An image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, wherein, when powers in X- and Y- directions of an entire optical system are denoted by Px and Py, respectively, and powers in the X-direction of the first reflecting surface, the second reflecting surface, the third reflecting surface and the fourth reflecting surface are denoted by Px1-1, Px1-2, Px2-1 and Px2-2, respectively, and further powers in the Y-direction of the first reflecting surface, the second reflecting surface, the third reflecting surface and the fourth reflecting surface are denoted by Py1-1, Py1-2, Py2-1 and Py2-2, respectively, the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.1 < Px1-2/Px < 0.6 \quad \dots(2).$$

17. An image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, wherein, when powers in X- and Y-directions of an entire optical system are denoted by Px and Py, respectively, and powers in the X-direction of the first reflecting surface, the second reflecting surface, the third reflecting surface and the fourth reflecting surface are denoted by Px1-1, Px1-2, Px2-1 and Px2-2, respectively, and further powers in the Y-direction of the first reflecting surface, the second reflecting surface, the third reflecting surface and the fourth reflecting surface are denoted by Py1-1, Py1-2, Py2-1 and Py2-2, respectively, the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.2 < P_{x2-1}/P_x < 1$$

....(3).

A10

18. An image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, wherein, when powers in X- and Y- directions of an entire optical system are denoted by P_x and P_y , respectively, and powers in the X-direction of the first reflecting surface, the second reflecting surface, the third reflecting surface and the fourth reflecting surface are denoted by P_{x1-1} , P_{x1-2} , P_{x2-1} and P_{x2-2} , respectively, and further powers in the Y-direction of the first reflecting surface, the second reflecting surface, the third reflecting surface and the fourth reflecting surface are denoted by P_{y1-1} , P_{y1-2} , P_{y2-1} and P_{y2-2} , respectively, the following condition is satisfied:

$$0.5 < P_{x2-1}/P_{y2-1} < 2.0$$

....(4).

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19. A finder optical system comprising:

said image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, said image-forming optical system being provided as a finder objective optical system;

an image-erecting optical system for erecting an object image formed by said finder objective optical system; and

an ocular optical system.

A12

20. A camera apparatus comprising:

said finder optical system according to claim 19; and

an objective optical system for photography provided in parallel to said finder

optical system.

21. An image pickup optical system comprising:

said image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25; and
an image pickup device placed in an image plane formed by said image-forming optical system.

22. A camera apparatus comprising:

said image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25, said image-forming optical system being provided as an objective optical system for photography; and
a finder optical system placed in one of an optical path separate from an optical path of said objective optical system for photography and an optical path split from the optical path of said objective optical system for photography.

23. An electronic camera apparatus comprising:

said image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25;
an image pickup device placed in an image plane formed by said image-forming optical system;
a recording medium for recording image information received by said image pickup device; and
an image display device that receives image information from one of said recording medium and said image pickup device to form an image for observation.

24. An endoscope system comprising:

an observation system having said image-forming optical system according to claim [1] 25 and an image transmitting member for transmitting an image formed by said image-forming optical system along a longitudinal axis; and

an illumination system having an illuminating light source and an illuminating light transmitting member for transmitting illuminating light from said illuminating light source along said longitudinal axis.

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